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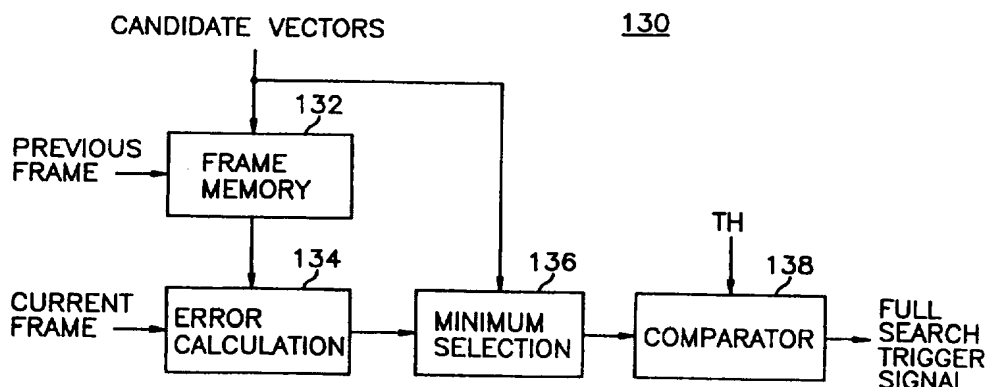
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(54) **Determining motion vector of search block using motion vectors of neighbouring blocks**

(57) A motion vector detecting method determines a motion vector of a search block included in a search frame of a video signal by using motion vectors of processed neighboring blocks, wherein the search frame is divided into a multiplicity of blocks which include a set of processed blocks whose motion vectors have been determined, and the set of processed blocks contain the processed neighboring blocks which are neighboring blocks of the search block, by: (a) selecting an X-vector and an Y-vector among the motion vectors of the processed neighboring blocks, wherein the X-vector is a vector which is most similar to a horizontal vector the and the Y-vector is a vector which is most similar to a vertical vector, to thereby provide a group of candidate vectors which include the X-vector, the Y-vector and a 0 vector; (b) deciding a candidate motion vector among the group of candidate vectors; and (c) providing the candidate motion vector as the motion vector of the search block in case a distortion between the search block and a predicted block corresponding to the candidate motion vector is smaller than a predetermined threshold value 138 and determining the motion vector of the search block by using a full search block matching method in case the distortion is not smaller than the predetermined threshold value.

FIG. 3



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